

OAKVILLE TRAFALGAR HIGH SCHOOL  
SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING  
Thursday April 11, 2019 7:00 p.m.

**AGENDA**

1. 7:00 – Call to order– **Rob Best**
  - a. Approval of minutes of last meeting held March 21, 2019
  - b. Approve adoption of agenda
  - c. Any new business
2. 7:05 – RDC update – **RDC Representative**
3. 7:10 - Community Connections / PIC Update – **Anette Winslow/Sandra Hurl-Smith**
4. 7:15 – Financial updates –**Rob Best**
5. 7:20 – June council meeting (social) – **Rob Best**
  - a. Suggested date / venue – Thursday June 6<sup>th</sup> @ Corks above Longo's on Cornwall Road 7PM
6. 7:25 – Reminder on Staff appreciation lunch May 3<sup>rd</sup>. – **Rob Best**
  - a. Decision required on allocation of any funds left over
7. 7:30 - Library retrofit – **Meena Sahi, Mary Collett (librarian)**
8. 7:50 – Principal/Staff Updates – **Meena Sahi**
9. 8:10 – Motion to Adjourn

**Minutes**

**Attendees:** Rob Best, Roberta Veitch, Kimberly Swinoga, Meena Sahi, Rosalind Ward-Smith, Carolyn Adams Hill, Tracy Jarvis, Maggie Cai Hao

**1. Call to Order - Rob Best**

Approval of minutes of last meeting held March 21, 2019

Approved: Kimberly Swinoga

Seconded: Tracy Jarvis

**2. RDC (Red Devil Council) update – Hunter MacKinnon**

- Coffee house – took place yesterday – it was very successful
- Semi formal junior for students in Grades 9, 10 April 24 – Moonlight dance theme, tickets can be purchased through School Cash Online
- Relay for life will be May 24, 11:00 am to 11:00 pm – lots of planning is in the works

- Blood drive – May 22 – possibly, it has yet to be finalized. Students need to be a minimum of 17 years old to donate blood. It will be at the Heartland location of Canadian Blood Services (765 Britannia Rd W #2, Mississauga, ON L5V 2Y1), a blood donor bus will come and get groups of 15 students at a time – there will likely be 2 runs of 15 students each. Parents are welcome to go but they would need to drive themselves.
- March madness contest results – one Grade 11 and one Grade 12 winner, both donated their winnings back to Relay for Life!

### **3. Community Connections / PIC Update – Rob Best for Anette Winslow/Sandra Hurl-Smith**

- April 30 (date may change depending on the availability of the officer) Community Connections will be a presentation put on by Halton police (community officer) on what is happening in our students' lives as far as drugs and police encounters are concerned, plus information on human trafficking in our region.
- Ideas for speakers/topics for next year would be greatly appreciated – send to Rob Best or Anette Winslow.
- Decided not to conduct a survey this year about what attendees thought of the speakers as last year the response rates to the questionnaire were quite low.
- We had 108 attendees for this week's talk on Raising Resilient Children – it was very well received.

### **4. Financial updates –Rob Best**

- No new intake of money in March
- Balance just under \$4000
- Pro grant is still not in yet – Meena will send an email to see what the issue is
- 4 x \$500 has been set aside for scholarships
- About \$2000 to roll over for next year



OTHS Budget

### **5. June council meeting (social) – Rob Best**

- Suggested date / venue – Thursday June 6<sup>th</sup> @ Corks above Longo's on Cornwall Road 7PM
- Tanya Rocca may attend – our new trustee
- Kimberly Swinoga is going to call Corks and book – Royal Windsor Pub is an option if Corks is not available.

### **6. Staff appreciation lunch May 3rd. – Rob Best**

- A Meal Train sign-up email has been sent (you may have been sent it twice but that is OK). Here you can sign up to bring food or donate your time or donate money for the purchase of coffee, etc.

- A decision was made for the allocation of any funds left over from donations made to the Staff appreciation luncheon – council members decided that leftover money is to go to parent council – which can then donate it to a charity.
- The luncheon will run from 11:30 – 1 pm to allow for 2 sittings
- Drop food off at 11:00 am or arrange with Sandra Hurl-Smith.

**Community representative** – to attend school council meetings representing the community

- Can have up to 2 community reps
- Groups can still let us know over the summer if they are interested in sending a representative to our school council meetings.
- Voting will take place in the fall at the meeting where choices of council chair etc. are made.

**7. Library Retrofit**

- Mary Collett our librarian was at the meeting – showed us the floorplan proposed for the new and improved library
- Quotes have been obtained for a lot of the work, removal of shelving, etc.
- Carpet tile will be used – creating a pattern, fairly easy to clean, absorbs sound better than bare floor.
- Potential area of rubberized flooring – students may be able to eat here.
- Showed us some of the furniture pieces that they were considering ordering.
- Question from a parent council member as to why the library is being redone – Meena’s response → the way it is, there is not enough space for all of the students who want to use it, libraries these days are not so much for books, more of a learning commons where students can get together to do work and currently there is no space for this.
- The perimeter of the room will be books but rest of the space will be places for students to work – student centered space.
- Several parents on council expressed concern about the lack of quiet space – Mary said that students can go to seminar room, librarian can open it up for them – a parent asked if students currently know that that room is available for study. Mary said that she would make a sign so that all students were aware of the room’s potential.
- We will be keeping the carols for individual study, and the separate seminar room. This room has white boards and a ceiling projector – students often use it for recording podcasts, practising for group presentations, etc. but it can also be opened for students who want to use it as an area for quiet study.
- Fiction area – will remain, comfortable chairs for reading
- Booth seating by windows/glass doors that don’t open that face the hallway/atrium
- Keeping a few regular computers – students use these to print from, otherwise they will be using Chromebooks
- Tables on wheels will give the space versatility
- Focus groups with students and staff in the next 2 weeks to get input from everyone
- A bit of the library reno budget will be kept back for things we don’t know that we need yet
- Noisier students will be invited to go to the cafeteria with its new furniture to “hang out”
- One parent raised the possibility of the students using noise cancelling head phones – would we be able to help purchase them with parent council money?

- Parents on council to send any ideas to Meena
- July – tear down and carpet installation, furniture to be put in in August

## **8. Principal/Staff Updates – Meena Sahi**

### **Ministry announcement discussion**

- Principal Meena wanted us to be aware of how the Ministry's announcement will affect OTHS
- Halton – approx. 4.7% decrease in funding overall, need to try and reduce the impact of this at the student level
- Grants (such as EPO grants – education programs other – apply to places where there is a gap – e.g. students with an IEP, students with anxiety, etc.) and funding lines have also been cut by the ministry
- Changes in class sizes 22→28 as average class size – going to be less teachers required - Halton is still a growing board, so likely no teachers lost, but may be some shuffling of teaching positions between schools
- At OTHS usually interviews and hiring done April – July for permanent teachers, then August interviews for temp teachers
- The Ministry is having consultations until May 31 on class size but we can't wait that long – won't have time to hire the right teachers
- Concrete funding numbers are supposed to be coming at the end of April – this will put us at least a month behind for hiring – want to wait so that we are not shuffling teachers around unnecessarily
- Conversation between Meena and parents about next year being a teacher union negotiation year – possibility of strike, work-to-rule because of changes ministry has brought in

### **Student Events**

- Robotics Team competition in North Bay - finalist Dean's List
- Provincial Debate Competition - 2 teams in the finals
- Model UN- outstanding performance and awards won
- Girls and Boys Hockey at Halton Finals
- Relay for Life Assembly - student presenters

### **Upcoming Events**

- Jr. Semi Formal – April 24
- Prom – May 16 in Hamilton (Liuna Station)
- Relay for Life - May 24
- MADD assembly - May 13 – scheduled just before prom – focus not just on alcohol, but on impaired driving of any kind
- One Act Plays - May 2

- Eco council – held an Earth Day event

**Assassin Game** - email sent to parents - students are not to play at school as it is not a sanctioned event. Police would like to have parents discourage this game in the community.

#### **Facilities**

- Theatre lighting – an ongoing project
- Library reno - set for July and early August
- Installing white boards in many classrooms

#### **Next Year Staffing and Enrolment**

- 1325 projection for next September-- Currently enrollment is 1350
- Retirements expected by April 30
- Staffing has not started for the year yet - we are 4 weeks behind
- Board and Union are in agreement to wait for more direction from ministry

#### **Staff Learning for Next Year**

- Fundamentals of Math (provincial initiative) -- will be added to Professional Learning for teachers in an October PD Day

#### **9. 8:20 – Motion to Adjourn**

Motion: Roberta Veitch

Seconded by: Rosalind Ward-Smith

**NEXT COUNCIL MEETING Wednesday May 1, 2019 7:00 pm**